

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OFA-01 OES-03

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R 131027Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3944
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 1190

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: MAURITANIAN FISHERIES

REF: A. STATE 115376 (NOTAL) B. STATE 136932 (NOTAL)

1. THINGS MOVE SLOWLY HERE. UPON RECEIPT REF A, EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY BEGAN WHAT HAS NOW BECOME CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION ON MAURITANIAN MARINE WEALTH AND FISERIES FROM MINISTRY OF PLANNING. ON JUNE 7, AMBASSADOR WAS AT LAST ABLE TO CATCH CONSTANTLY TRAVELING MINISTER PLANNING ABDALLAHI FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES JUST BEFORE HE SET OFF AGAIN FOR PARIS (A) TO INFORM HIM ABOUT KRAMER, CHINA, AND MAYO, INC. INTEREST, AND (B) TO REQUEST DETAILED GIRM REPORT ON FISHERIES POTENTIAL WHICH ONLY MINISTER CAN RELEASE. MINISTER WAS PLEASED WITH INDICATION US INTEREST, AND QUICKLY AGREED TO MAKE REPORT AVAILABLE. BUT DESPITE MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS STAFF TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION AND OUR FOLLOW-UP CALLS, BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE HAS STILL NOT DISGORGED DOCUMENTATION.

2. REFLECTING ON DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE, MINISTER OBSERVED TOTAL WAS UNIMPRESSIVE AND CONTENT EVEN SLIMMER. WHILE GREEING US FIRM MIGHT WELL BEGIN WITH STUDY OF AVAILABLE MATERIALS, HE DECLARED DOCUMENT STUDY ALONE WOULD BE INADEQUATE. HE VIGOROUSLY URGED US COMPANY TO
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SEND TEAM TO MAURITANIA (A) TO INTERVIEW BROAD RANGE OF

KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN FAMILIAR WITH BOTH CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE POTENTIAL, AND (B) TO VIEW AT FIRST HAND PHYSICAL SETTING, SUPPORT FACILITIES, AND GENERAL ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT. MINISTER CONCLUDED, MOREOVER, US FIRM COULD OBTAIN PRECISE AND COMPLETE IDEA OF WHAT GIRM DESIRED ONLY THROUGH FACE TO FACE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM AND OTHER DIRECTLY INVOLVED OFFICIALS.

3. EMBASSY FULLY SHARES MINISTER'S VIEWS RE DESIRABILITY OF ON-SCENE RESEARCH AND DIRECT DIALOGUE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND K-C-M MAKE EVERY EFFORT SPEND 8-10 DAYS IN MAURITANIA. WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PRY DOCUMENTATION OUT OF ABD ALLAH'S SUBORDINATES AND WILL AIR POUCH IT TO SANDS ASAP THEREAFTER.

4. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION WE WILL BE AIR POUCHING, WISH TO POINT OUT THAT NOUAKCHOTT A-36 (POUCHED JUNE 12) CONTAINS TEXT OF MAURITANIAN-ROMANIAN FISHING AGREEMENT AND TEXT OF SUPPLEMENTARY ACCORD WHICH EXPANDS ON AGREEMENT. BELIEVE THIS AGREEMENT IS FAIRLY TYPICAL OF THOSE SIGNED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HANDY SIDE

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